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[0021] Fig. 10 is a data diagram showing a structure of the main header structure in Fig. 9;

[0022] Fig. 11 is a schematic diagram showing a structure of a file format of a basic JPEG 2000 scheme;

[0023] Fig. 12 is a block diagram for illustrating an example of a structure of an image compression apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0024] Fig. 13 is a flowchart for illustrating an image compression method (procedure) conducted in Fig. 12, and for illustrating an example of steps conducted with an image compression method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0025] Fig. 14 is a table showing an example of a corresponding relation that is employed by the image compression apparatus of Fig. 12;

[0026] Fig. 15 shows an example of an original image;

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[0027] Figs. 16A through ^{16b}~~D~~ show resultant images processed by an image compression apparatus and output from an image decompression apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0028] Fig. 17 is a block diagram showing an example of a structure of an image compression apparatus and/or image decompression apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention.